

TOWN OF WEBSTER
Office of Selectmen
945 Battle Street/Rte. 127
Webster, NH 03303

6:35 PM Selectmen's Meeting – February 6, 2012

Present: Chairman George Cummings and Selectman Bruce Johnson.

The Board signed the payroll and check manifests.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Judith Jones:

- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Minutes of January 9, 2012 as amended at the last meeting; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved.
- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Minutes of January 23, 2012 as written; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved.
- A letter to be faxed to the Town of Henniker regarding the Commitment for Household Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Project to be held on October 27, 2012. The funds for this project are included in the annual landfill budget line.
- Sick leave slip for Mrs. Jones.

The Board signed a sick leave slip for Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham.

Chief Dupuis advised the Board that there were 23 calls for service in the last two weeks, which included criminal threatening, burglary, criminal assault, 17 motor vehicle stops, etc. He advised David Klumb, Pillsbury Lake Commissioner, that there has been an issue with the breaking and entering of those homes vacant in the Pillsbury Lake District and requested that any suspicious activity be reported to the Police.

Fire Chief Colin Colby advised of the following:

- There have been 14 calls to date. There was one call since the last meeting for a dog through the ice though everything turned out okay.
- Engine 3 went to Valley Fire Equipment for repairs as the foam system was not working. The air dryer was rebuilt and a few valves were replaced at a cost of \$978.09. As he just received the bill, a purchase order will be prepared for the next meeting.
- A few firefighters went to Greenwood to check out Engine 2 and took pictures to share.

Road Agent Emmett Bean advised that having a little snow would be better than ice, indicating that snow is expected on February 17th. He expressed concerns that it may be necessary to post weight limits on the roads sooner than usual due to an early spring thaw. He requested that Intents to Cut be held for his review because of this issue. He had concerns over the current logging operation in the Pillsbury Lake District on the Hunting Preserve as some places where the road has been smoothed over are okay and others are soft. He has delivered sand to the shed in order to fill the small sand shed. Chairman Cummings noted that the State has already posted frost heave signs.

The Board signed Purchase Order #1 for Fire Chief Colby for the Fire Department to Zoll Medical Corporation for a 1-year preventative maintenance agreement on the defibrillator in the amount of \$255.

Treasurer Mary Smith referred to the new charge of \$5 at TD Bank to be charged to anyone wishing to cash a TD Bank check if they do not have a TD Bank account of any kind. This could impact anyone on the payroll not using TD Bank for their personal business. She advised the Board that she has meetings set up with Sugar River Bank and the Merrimack County Savings Bank to see what services they could offer the Town.

Senator Andy Sanborn will attend the Selectmen's Meeting on February 21, 2012.

A letter to the Army Corp of Engineers requesting them to meet with the Board, the Conservation Commission, DES representatives and landowners will be finalized and mailed soon. Chairman Cummings will talk with Conservation Commission Chairman Mary Jo MacGowan regarding this issue as they will both sign the letter.

BOS Initials:

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson

Last Wednesday, Police Chief Dupuis testified before the Legislature on the bill relative to Police Standards & Training funding. Only one legislature is pushing the tuition issue and others were pushing to make it part of the college system relative. He felt that the push was to put the burden on the towns to pay tuition for any cadets enrolled in the Academy. The Academy is 95% funded by the Penalty Assessment, which is an amount added on to fines assessed. He indicated that 66% of the Penalty Assessment goes into the Academy and the remaining money goes into the general fund, but language in the House Bill would change this allocation. There is currently no talk in the bill about budgeting anything towards the Academy. The bill is currently with the Criminal Justice Committee with no vote taken and will be going to the House Finance Committee. The Academy teaches State, County and Local Corrections officers. Senator Sanborn was requested to address this issue at the last Selectmen's meeting he attended and hopefully he will do so when he comes on February 21st. Mrs. Jones had received information relative to the Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) regarding a 1953 Compact, which was relative to the Connecticut River Valley, not the Merrimack River. Mrs. Jones contacted Jennifer Rocket, at Franklin Falls Dam, who was unable to provide any additional information at this time. Discussion continued on the changes in the amount of the PILT and how recently it had been fully funded by the State of NH, and not by MA, as was originally intended. The State has stopped the full funding and is now funding only that portion as was originally planned. Police Chief Dupuis will check with the Town of Hill to see if they can offer any insight as to how the PILT was lowered. He advised that there had been a reappraisal done by the State of the land affected by the Dam in Hill, which led to a lowering of the PILT amount received by Hill. Since then, Hill has had done its own appraisal of the land, which was higher, and presented it to the State with no success in any change in funds received.

Selectman Johnson recommended that Senator Sanborn be requested to focus his meeting with the Board on Webster issues only. Chairman Cummings noted that there would be questions on more general, State wide issues as well.

Chairman Cummings advised that \$1,600 was added to the proposed 2012 Town Hall oil budget line. From recent oil bills received, it appeared that we could be short in that line. He noted that with the energy improvements made to the Town Hall and the programmable thermostats added, we should see a difference in the oil needed. Mrs. Pinkham was requested to compare last year's degree days, through the oil companies, with this year to see how the two years compare.

Chairman Cummings discussed non-residential use of the landfill, as the landfill is not being used to its full capacity, through modification of the solid waste permit fees. This would allow such things as septic waste to be accepted from other entities. Refuse Disposal Committee Member Ellen Kontinos-Cilley advised that the committee was ordered to go forward to amend the solid waste permits. She advised that there will need to be a public hearing, but before that, the Committee would be looking for some guidance from the Hopkinton and Webster Selectmen. She also noted that there is a petition article in Hopkinton on the proposed 2012 Warrant to do away with "Pay as You Throw." Chairman Cummings felt that it would not pass. Mrs. Jones had received a copy of the recycling report from Steve Clough and will forward that on to the Board for their review. After further discussion regarding possible joint meeting dates with Hopkinton, Chairman Cummings recommended that the Board carefully review the draft received from Refuse Disposal Committee Chairman Barbara Corliss. The Board could then discuss it at the next Selectmen's Meeting with the thought of making a decision of whether to go with the proposal from Mr. Clough. The Board would then see what Hopkinton had to say and see if they believe a joint meeting is necessary. Refuse Disposal Committee Member Dave Klumb noted that the committee was not looking for authorization to go with Mr. Clough's proposal, only asking for a change in the authorization of the committee, at which time they could continue working through Mr. Clough's document for a proposal for rates and plans. Mrs. Kontinos-Cilley noted that the Refuse Disposal Committee used Mr. Clough's document when they decided to move forward. Chairman Cummings thanked the Committee members for their input.

As there is a vacancy on the Planning Board for a full member due to the passing of Richard Doucette, Selectman Johnson nominated Sue Roman to move up from alternate to a full-member of the Planning Board; seconded by Chairman Cummings and approved. Ms. Roman will complete Mr. Doucette's term which expires in 2014 and the alternate position will be for a term until 2013 when filled.

The Public Hearing, to be hosted by the Grange, for the Warrant and Budget is scheduled for February 14, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

The picture of the dedication of the Town Report will be in color and the cover will be glossy if not too expensive.

Melissa West requested permission, on behalf of the 4-H Group of Merrimack Valley, to use the Town Hall twice a month starting in February through April for a canine show course. The Board had no objection, but was concerned about clean-up and will closely monitor this activity. Mrs. Jones will notify Ms. West of the Board's decision.

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The proposed 2012 Warrant was sent to the Department of Revenue and Town Counsel for review. The recommended changes from DRA were made. Town Counsel indicated that all articles were written suitably for their intended purposes.

The Board received a request to add additional members to the Parks Committee. Research did not reveal when the committee was established and there was no information on the number of members. Mrs. Jones will do further research.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2012 Warrant and Budget.

Mr. Bean advised that he has been dealing with a fire department in MA. He has sent them pictures of the fire truck for sale and they have expressed interest in coming to inspect the truck.

Mrs. Pinkham provided the Board with information regarding the surplus over the last five years. She also had prepared a Tax Rate Estimate for 2012.

Selectman Johnson will set up the existing sound system for a trial run at the Public Hearing on February 14th.

Roy Fanjoy inquired about a “meet the candidates” night and whether it would be the same night as the Public Hearing. Chairman Cummings noted that this had been the practice in the recent past.

Moderator Harold Janeway will be advised of the Public Hearing.

7:54 PM Selectman Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded y Chairman Cummings and approved.

George C. Cummings, Chairman
BOS/jj

Bruce G. Johnson

BOS Initials:

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson